

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05121 160914Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----038090 160915Z /15

O 160858Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5587
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 05121

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, SO, KE, ET, EG
SUBJECT: KENYAN ACTION IN FORCING DOWN EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) CAIRO 5084, (B) NAIROBI 2449

1. ASSUME REFTELS CROSSED. IN TALK WITH VP MUBARAK THIS MORNING, HE ASKED IF WE HAVE USED OUR "GOOD OFFICES" WITH KENYA TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT. I TOLD HIM THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME CONFUSION ABOUT JUST WHAT TOOK PLACE. ACTING FONMIN GHALI HAD TOLD DCM MATTHEWS LAST NIGHT THAT EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT HAD OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE. KENYANS HAVE TOLD US NO OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE GRANTED. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT. MUBARAK PROFESSED NOT TO BE SURE WHETHER OR NOT EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT HAD OBTAINED OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE.

2. MUBARAK INDICATED THAT EGYPTIANS ARE HOLDING TWO KENYAN BOEING 707'S, WHICH WERE TRANSITING CAIRO YESTERDAY AND THIS MORNING. THEY WILL NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT IS RELEASED.

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3. WE HAVE REPORT THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS THAT EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT WAS CARRYING 120 MM ARTILLERY WEAPONS RATHER THAN SMALL ARMS AS GHALI CLAIMED LAST NIGHT (REF A). GHALI MAY HAVE BEEN DISSEMBLING OR WAS NOT FULLY BRIEFED ON CARGO.

4. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT, IF ANY, ACTION WE ARE PREPARED

TO TAKE WITH KENYANS TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT.
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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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